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CAL-FED Bay-Delta Program
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Dear Sirs,

The following is a list of projects I developed or modified and submitted to USBR, DWR, Corps of Engineers, and other agencies during the 1980's when I was consultant for the conservation group, California Trout, Inc.. These projects were taken seriously at that time and are highly worthy of consideration by CAL-FED as they are all highly economic and have major benefits for fisheries and recreation as well as creating major water supplies and flood control benefits. I will be sending you extensive reports on each of these proposals.

1. The most important of these proposals is my concept of the development of two major offstream storage reservoirs for American River water on Deer Creek, just south of the lower American River. These Reservoirs, Deer Creek Reservoir, capacity 700,000 AF, and County Line Reservoir, capacity 200,000-300,000 AF, almost as large in total capacity as Folsom Lake. They would be served by a gravity flow canal with a capacity of about 75,000 cfs leading from the base of the Mormon Island saddle dike at Folsom Lake extending about 10 miles down to the reservoirs. All water would be released into the lower Cosumnes River near Sloughhouse, making more than 40 miles of the lower Cosumnes high quality salmon, steelhead, trout, and shad habitat. The lower river would become a parkway and wildlife refuge. The flood control channel idea has been studied by two engineering firms since my earlier report and found to be viable if somewhat expensive. This project is the only feasible alternative to the construction of some form of Auburn Dam, and would provide as much flood control and water supply benefits as even the large and uneconomic 2.3 MAF version of that project.

2. The USBR proposal for construction of the 700,000 AF capacity Nashvill Reservoir on the Cosumnes River near Highway 49 should be considered as a water supply source for GVP and SWP, as it is an economically and environmentally favorable source of water. This dam was originally designed for local water supply, which made it economically unviable as agriculture could not pay its fair share for the dam. This reservoir would provide flows averaging over 300 cfs on 70 miles of the lower Cosumnes; if it were combined with the American River offstream storage reservoirs, flows on the lower Cosumnes would average close to 1,000 cfs, and it would be a much better fishery than the lower American River. The upstream dams originally proposed by USBR were too large and uneconomic, but a series of much smaller reservoirs on the numerous forks of the Cosumnes would create hundreds of miles of prime trout habitat, creating the equivalent of a new National Park close to Sacramento if adequate roads and trails were developed.

3. Construction of the Soda Creek Tunnel and Steinhart Reservoir, capacity about 25,000 AF, to divert surplus flood water from the Cache Creek drainage to Putah Creek and Lake Berryessa would raise the annual yield of Berryessa by close to 30 percent at a very low capital cost. This additional water could be diverted to SWP in the Delta by means of the existing Putah-South Canal and redirection of this water by means of Crevis Creek, which flows into Montezuma Slough near Vacaville. With substantial flows, Crevis Creek could become a significant steelhead stream. The Soda Creek Tunnel would allow retaining a much higher minimum pool by taking care of any flood control problems at Clear Lake, so lower Cache Creek flows could be kept fairly high throughout the year creating a major trout and bass fishery on more than 40 miles of wilderness stream. Additional small dams should be constructed on major tributaries such as Putah Cree, St. Helena Creek, Pope Creek, and Kelsey Creek to enhance their summer and fall flows to create major trout fisheries, as well as fine trout lakes close to the Bay Area.

4. Pit River and Lake Shasta drainage projects. USBR's proposal for the 190,000 AF Allen Camp Reservoir on the upper Pit River near Canby should be revived, as it is a highly economic source of water for CVP and SWP. The reservoir was not constructed as it was designed for local irrigation, which made it economically unviable. It would create a high quality trout fishery on more than 100 miles of the Pit River, which is a highly degraded watershed with major trout potential and good road access to both its meadow and canyon sections. It would also increase yield at Lake Shasta by allowing retaining a higher minimum flood control pool, so the net yield from this reservoir would be about 150,000 AF at a very low cost.

Another major project just below Shasta Lake is the large reservoir on Little Cow Creek just east of Redding. While this site is capable of 1 MAF capacity, it probably should be built at 600,000-700,000 AF so that Highway 299 need not be rerouted at the upper end of the reservoir. Water would be supplied by a 3 mile tunnel leading from an existing saddle dike at Lake Shasta into a tributary of lower Little Cow Creek. This reservoir, with a dam site just upstream from Bella Vista, would provide about 10 miles of major spawning and rearing habitat on lower Cow Creek. As the dam would be only about 100 feet in height, it could be laddered so that its upper drainage was spawning habitat while the large reservoir would be major rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead. A small dam of about 10,000-15,000 AF on the extreme upper reaches of Little Cow Creek would provide about 25 miles of prime trout habitat right along Highway 299. Several other small dams on the upper reaches of the other branches of Cow Creek would provide major spawning and rearing areas, making this the best spawning stream in the upper Sacramento Valley. (Higher flow releases from USBR's Whiskeytown Reservoir on the other side of the valley would make about 30 miles of Clear Creek into major spawning and rearing habitat at a negligible cost in power production, as the flows are fairly good much of the year but flows are inadequate during summer and fall.)

5. North Fork Feather River drainage. The Abbey Bridge Reservoir, cap 45,000 AF, and Dixie Refuge Reservoir, capacity 10,000 AF, were designed by DWR and authorized as SWP facilities by never built because of opposition from some local ranchers. These reservoirs would create more than 85 miles of prime trout habitat on the Little Last Chance, and Indian Creek drainages, which flow into the North Fork, raising flows by about 05 cfs throughout the North Fork system. Other small reservoirs should also be considered, as they would add to Lake Oroville yield.